GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:186
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005
COMBATING MALARIA AND CHOLERA
Mahato Shri Bir Sing;Mahato Shri Sunil Kumar

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether prevalence of diseases like cholera and malaria is indicative of failure of the Public Health Care System and lack of prompt attention by the Government to contain them;

(b) whether compensation is to be paid to the victims of cholera and malaria; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures proposed to be taken by the Government to save the public from fatal diseases which are the outcome of the failure of the Public Health Care System?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 186 FOR 16.03.2005

Diseases like cholera and malaria are linked to maintenance of environmental hygiene, sanitation, consumption of safe good and drinking water. Data as furnished by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence and Directorate of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) indicate that the number of cholera cases has been fluctuating from 3455 in 2002, 2893 in 2003 & 4695 in 2004, while the incidence of malaria cases has declined from 3.04 million cases in 1996 to 1.87 million cases in 2003.

Health is primarily a state subject and provision of medical relief for water borne diseases like cholera etc. through primary and community health centers is looked after by the State Governments. Unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation and environmental hygiene are some of the causes of water borne diseases. The preventive measures taken by the local health authorities include provision of safe drinking water, improvement of personal and community hygiene, safe disposal of human excreta, undertaking appropriate health education, surveillance and monitoring, distribution of chlorine tablets and ORS packets etc.

The National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme is implemented by the Central Government which provides technical guidance and commodity assistance to the State Governments for prevention and control of major vector borne diseases including Malaria. Under this programme, 100% central assistance is provided to the North Eastern States including Sikkim. The assistance is provided in the form of commodity and cash. In addition, 100 % central assistance is also provided under Enhanced Malaria Control Project with World Bank assistance which was launched in the eight problematic States of Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Orissa. The strategies for control of Malaria include providing anti-malarial drugs for early treatment through health facilities and community volunteers and integrated vector control which includes indoor residual spray in high risk pockets of the rural areas and larvicides in urban areas, use of bednets, environmental measures, capacity building, information, education and communication.

The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories through various National Health Programmes and by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme, Total Sanitation Campaign, School Sanitation and Hygiene Education and low cost sanitation scheme for tackling quality related problems in respect of rural and urban drinking water supply. National Institutes of Communicable Diseases, Delhi, provides technical support to the State Governments and undertakes surveillance, early detection and prevention and control of outbreaks of communicable diseases including cholera. Technical support to improve the quality of drinking water is also envisaged to be provided by NICD, Delhi. The Government has launched an Integrated Disease Surveillance Project to further strengthen the disease surveillance system in order to ensure early detection and rapid response to arrest spread of diseases. In this manner, it is expected to control the incidence of diseases.

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